

The Heiress Revived from the Ashes Novel

The Heiress Revived Ch 121

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Chapter 121 A Family's Scapegoat

"It was fine during the day, why is it like this now?"

As she cried, she seemed to suddenly remember something and stopped crying abruptly. She glanced around the storage room. Not only did she not feel guilty for Lauren living in such a damp and dark environment, but she blamed Lauren for all the blame for Elliot vomiting blood and fainting.

"It's all Lauren's fault. If she hadn't provoked Elliot again **and** again, how could Elliot become like this? He is her own brother, How could she be so cruel? If anything happens to Elliot, I will never let her go. Alice said while crying.

After hearing what Alice said, David seemed to have found **an** outlet to vent his anger. His face was full of anger. He snorted heavily and echoed. "That jinx has never been quiet since she came into our Bennett family! She has messed up our good family. Elliot was so sincere to her, but she turned evil into evil and harmed Elliot like this!"

David's voice echoed in the storage room, with unquestionable arrogance.

Alice cried even louder. "That heartless woman deliberately harmed Elliot like this just to make us suffer and to take revenge on us..."

Jeffrey looked at this unreasonable couple, anger rising in his heart.

Elliot was already in such a **state**, but the two of them didn't want to rush to rescue him, and they even had the mind to curse Lauren.

He stepped forward, stood in front of Elliot, and shouted, "Enough! Now is not the time to shirk responsibility. Hurry up and help carry him to the car and send him to the hospital!"

Having said that, he no longer paid attention to David and Alice and leaned over to hug Elliot. David and Alice finally woke up from their dream and came over to help in a hurry. The three of them finally lifted Elliot into the **car**.

Along the way, David and Alice kept muttering about their dissatisfaction with Lauren.

If the surgery didn't require family members' signatures, Jeffrey really wanted to kick them both out of the

car.

At the Hoverdale People First Hospital.

Kenneth still **had** gauze tied on his head. He couldn't sleep late at night, so he slowly walked out of the **ward and** planned to get some fresh air.

The night in the hospital was eerily quiet. The lights in the long corridor were dim and soft, but without a trace of warmth, **and** there was almost no other person to be seen.

He **was** alone, his footsteps echoing in the empty corridor, his lonely figure dragging its feet in the silent hallway.

But the next moment, the silence was broken by the sound of hurried footsteps and painful groans.

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Chapter 121 A Family's Scapegoat

The medical staff ran very fast with anxious looks on their faces.

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He stood where he was, and those people ran quickly past him on both sides, creating a slight air current.

Although they ran very fast. Kenneth could still clearly see the person on the hospital bed.

One of them was covered in blood and unconscious, with dried blood on the corners of his lips. It was

Elliot

Another one was wailing in pain on the hospital bed, his legs bent in an extremely twisted posture, as **if** they were broken. This person turned out to be Lucas.

Kenneth looked at the hospital bed rushing past and was shocked. His already pale face became even uglier.

He subconsciously turned around, his eyes following the two beds, **and** his footsteps followed them- unconsciously, all the way to the door of the emergency room.

David and Alice stood outside the emergency room, pacing anxiously.

When he saw Kenneth coming over, David saw that he had gauze wrapped around his head and asked in surprise, "Mr. Kenneth, what's wrong with your head?"

Kenneth was slightly startled, then perfunctorily said, "It was an accident, what happened to Elliot?"

Thinking of Elliot's miserable appearance of spitting blood, David's eyes became extremely cold, and curses against Lauren came out of his mouth without thinking.

"It's all Lauren's fault! I don't know what she said to Elliot, but she made him so angry that he vomited blood. That bitch just can't stand seeing the Bennett family doing well. She is no longer in our Bennett family, but she is still secretly harming us. She is so despicable." David said.

David's face was full of anger, as if he could cover up the wrong things they had done to Lauren by scolding her.

Alice also echoed David's words, and said with a sad face. "Laurie is too ignorant. She is like a debt collector. She can do nothing but cause trouble for the family."

"She actually harmed Elliot like this this time. She is so cruel. Our sincerity was trampled upon by her **and** is worthless. Alas!"

Kenneth just listened quietly with a puzzled expression on his face.

There was a hint of contemplation in his eyes, as if he was weighing whether what David and Alice said was

True.

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No one knew whether he believed it or not. He just stood there with a calm expression, not expressing any opinions. He just lowered his eyes slightly, as if thinking about something.

Just then, a mocking laugh suddenly rang out.

The laughter was extremely hoarse and seemed particularly abrupt in the silent corridor. David and Alice and Kenneth turned around at the same time and saw caregiver pushing Elaine in a wheelchair towards

them.

When David and Alice saw Elaine, their pupils sudden contracted. Scolding Lauren just now was immediately replaced by deep fear **and** panic.

David's face turned pale in an instant, and beads of sweat rolled down his forehead, Alice seemed as if an invisible hand had grabbed her heart, her body leaned back involuntarily, her eyes full of fear.

No one knows what happened back then better than these two couples.

David saw with his own eyes Willow pushing Elaine down the stairs.

Although Alice didn't see how Elaine rolled down the stairs, she chose to **stand** by and watch when Elaine asked her for help. She also pointed at the frightened Lauren and said, "Laurie, why did you want to harm Mr. Kenneth's sister?"

It was also after her reminder that Willow and David both agreed to a unified statement, insisting that it was Lauren who committed the murder intentionally.

Later, Alice deleted the only surveillance video that could prove Lauren's innocence.

These two people have something to hide, so how could they not feel guilty when they **saw** Elaine?

However, David has been working in the business world for many years and has seen many big scenes. The intricate business games and intrigues have already honed his ability to quickly regain his composure.

In just **a** moment, he suppressed all his emotions.

But the uneasiness hidden in his eyes was like a deep dark river, secretly surging beneath the calm surface of the lake.

But Alice is different. Since she married David, she has become a little wife.

Now, seeing Elaine waking up, she just felt scared. Her voice trembled, "What are you going to do?"

Elaine's smile stopped abruptly, and there was no expression on her face.

Because she had been in a vegetative state for five years and **had** been lying in bed all year round, her face was pale and bloodless, and her cheeks were sunken, making her eyes look particularly large and sinister, which was creepy.

Kenneth saw her and hurried over to her, saying with concern, "Elaine, why did you come out? Your body **hasn't** fully recovered yet, you need to rest more."

Elaine's eyes moved and her gaze fell on Kenneth. She stared at him straight with cold eyes.

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Chapter 122 The Ghost of Truth:

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"Elaine, what's wrong with you?" There was a hint of unassuredness in Kenneth's voice. He tried to read something from Elaine's expression, but her face was like a pool of stagnant water, without any ripples.

Elaine thought to herself, it has been less than a week since I woke up, and my *body* functions have not recovered yet. But even so, I have been practicing speaking hard these *past* few days, just to clear Lauren's name and *identify* Willow as the real murderer. What I found most ironic was that in the past few days, my biological brother Kenneth had never asked me about the murderer who turned me into a vegetable. As long as he asked, even *if* I couldn't speak. I could tell him by blinking or nodding. Yes, it's Willow, Brother, you have to avenge me and send Willow to prison. But no, not even once. The brother who used to hold me *in* the palm of his hand became so strange and hateful *in* order to protect the person who hurt me. My heart seemed to be torn into countless pieces, each piece soaked in blood.

Elaine's **lips** suddenly curled up into a strange smile, and she tried her best to squeeze out two words from her throat. "Karma!"

Her voice was weak and hoarse, but it echoed in the silent corridor, like a sharp blade, piercing **straight** into the hearts of everyone present.

After saying that, she started laughing, her laughter was dry and crazy.

Karma, Elaine thought to herself, Kenneth's head injury was karma. Elliot's vomiting blood was karma. It was Lucas to have his legs broken. The law of nature is clear and Karma will come. It's not that I don't want to retaliate, it's just that the time has not come yet. I *believed* that anyone who hurt Lauren would be punished accordingly. And, I firmly believed, this must be just the beginning.

She grinned, looking excited, crazy and scary.

Kenneth's face turned pale in an instant.

He was filled with hatred and anger, but the other party was his sister, and he couldn't do anything to her. He could only scold the nurse. "Push her away! She is weak now, she can't make trouble here!"

The nurse heard Kenneth's order, hurriedly pushing the wheelchair away.

Elaine's body leaned weakly on the wheelchair, without any ability to resist, but her eyes were fixed on Kenneth. The disgust and hatred in her eyes were like materialized arrows, shooting straight at him.

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Chapter 123 Echoes of Karma

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She had so many cruel words she wanted to say, but she couldn't. She could only repeat over **and** over, "Karma... Retribution..."

Kenneth just felt a splitting headache. He thought, obviously, everything I did to Lauren was for Elaine. What I got in return was Elaine's resentment. I don't know why it tied out like this.

Kenneth stood there, watching Elaine gradually disappear at the end of the corridor, but the resentment seemed to permeate the air, making him unable to get rid of it.

After an unknown amount of time, the door of the emergency room slowly opened. Jeffrey took off his mask and said tiredly. "Elliot has a perforated stomach. He is out of danger for the time being, but he needs to stay in the hospital for observation."

When David and Alice heard this, they finally breathed a sigh of relief.

But then. Alice began to wipe away her tears again, "This is all Lauren's fault. If it weren't for her, how could Elliot have suffered this kind of suffering..."

Jeffrey

couldn't bear to listen any longer, and said coldly. "Stop deceiving yourselves. Lauren is the one who was hurt. Elliot is like this now because of his own **guilt** and self-blame."

"If you really care about Elliot, then you should reflect on what you have done to Lauren over the years!"

After saying this, he ignored the shocked expressions of David and Alice, turned around and went into the emergency room and pushed Elliot out.

On the other side, in the emergency room, Lucas was also pushed out, his entire calf wrapped in thick bandages.

Lucas was still in a coma because the effect of the anesthetic had not yet worn off.

Even so, his brows were still furrowed, **as** if he **was** suffering unspeakable pain even in his coma.

After first aid, Elliot fell into a coma.

Kenneth looked at the two people being pushed into the ward by medical staff, and his mood was very gloomy.

He thought to himself, It seemed that since Lauren disappeared, those who had hurt her have been unlucky one *after*

another

Kenneth's heart ached terribly when he thought that Lauren was not the real murderer who turned Elaine into a vegetable and **then** thought **about** what Lauren had experienced in prison over the past five years.

He thought, is this karma? The harm we have done to Lauren finally came back to haunt us.

Kenneth stood outside the ward for a long time, then slowly left with heavy steps.

He thought, originally wanted to return to my ward.

But thinking of Elaine's crazy look just now, he still felt uneasy, so he turned around and went into Elaine's

ward.

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Chapter 123 Echoes of Karma

At this moment. Elaine was already lying on the bed.

But she didn't close her eyes and sleep.

Ever since she woke up from her vegetative state, she had been very reluctant to close her

She slept for five years and missed this world for five years.

eyes.

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She was afraid that once she closed her eyes, she would turn into the living dead again.

When Kenneth came in, he saw Elaine with her eyes wide open, looking out the window .

"Elaine." He called her softly, but Elaine didn't respond at all.

Kenneth sighed, walked up to

happy?"

her, and said softly, "Elaine, your brother came to see you, aren't you

A sarcastic arc appeared on Elaine's lips **as** she thought to herself, happy? If he really took

me as his sister seriously, he would not have protected Willow. *His* sister was armed so tragically, and Lauren was implicated and sentenced to five years in prison. As my biological brother, he actually had no intention of pursuing the matter further. *He* didn't come to see me; he came to laugh at me.

There is another point that Elaine has always been confused about.

She thought to herself, it's been many days since *I* woke up, why haven't mom and dad come to see me once? *Before* I turned into a vegetable, mom and dad loved me very much. I don't believe that they didn't come to see me *after* they found out I had woken up.

There was only one possible reason why they didn't come, that is, they didn't know I had woken up. This means that Kenneth did not tell them the news *of my* awakening. Because he knew that once mom and *dad* came, they would definitely *try* their best to find out from me what happened that year.

In order to protect Willow, he really did everything *he* could. *Didn't* you say you don't like Willow? Didn't he pursue Lauren *for three* whole years in high school? Isn't it because of Lauren that you want to break *off* the engagement with Willow? But when Willow! evil deeds were about to *be* exposed, my *good brother* was unwilling to do so. *He* would rather deceive mom and dad, let *my* suffer injustice, and let Lauren continue to bear the charge of attempted murder, than let Willow suffer the slightest harm. Hahaha. Ridiculous,

so ridiculous. A man like him is not worthy *of* being *my brother*. He was even more unworthy *of* saying, Aren't *you* happy that your *brother* came to see you?" Such words would only make her feel extremely hypocritical.

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Chapter 124 A Brother's Betrayal

Elaine still didn't look at him. She just hoped that she would recover quickly.

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Seeing **that** Elaine had no reaction to his words, Kenne's smile gradually faded.

But he still suppressed his inner displeasure and said to Elaine in a very helpless tone. "Are you with your brother?"

still angry

After a pause, he continued, "Brother knows what you are thinking, but brother can't do t his."

"You are my biological sister. Everything I do is for **you**

Elaine thought as she sneered in her heart. For me?For y sake, I am wronged? Is it to le t the real murderer go unpunished? Before / woke up, Lauren was hurt so badly because of me. I have woken up, why not send Willow to j ail for me? Does it mean that loving Lauren means hurting her? I could move at this mo ment, / would definitely slap him in the **face**.

This time, Elaine finally looked at him, but her eyes were full of disgust and hatred.

She wanted to tell him to get lost, but she couldn't move or speak, so she could only look at him with hatred.

Kenneth, however, acted as if she was being naughty, and gently patted her head, coax ing her. "Elaine, stop making trouble, okay?"

"Your body hasn't recovered yet. Getting angry is bad for your health." Kenneth said.

He knew she didn't want to hear it, but he kept talking.

Elaine felt a surge of anger rushing to her head.

Go, go! She screamed hysterically in her heart.

Elaine was so angry. She hated Kenneth for being blind and she hated herself for being unable to move. Her eyes were filled with anger, as if she wanted to burn out this brother who had disappointed her so much.

Kenneth felt a little uncomfortable with her hateful look.

He looked away and pretended to tidy up the things on the bedside table, still muttering. "When you better in a few days, I will send you **abroad**. It will be better for you to recover abroad."

Every word he said was like rubbing salt into Elaine's wounds.

Going abroad? Elaine thought.

feel

Her heart and eyes were now filled with the desire to make the truth known, to redress Lauren's injustice, and to make Willow receive the punishment she deserved, but he was still thinking about sending her

away.

Elaine's chest heaved violently, and every breath seemed to be spewing out anger.

She stared at Kenneth intently. At this moment, looking at Kenneth's face, she felt that he was so hideous

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Chapter 124 A Brother's Betrayal

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She mobilized all her strength, her throat felt like it was on fire, and she tried her best to squeeze out just **one** word.

"Get out!"

Kenneth was stunned, as if he had not expected his sister to be so **angry**.

There was a flash of surprise in his eyes, and then he sighed.

"Elaine, you've grown up, and it's time for you to be sensible." Kenneth said.

The self-righteous look of preaching made Elaine's anger burn like a bucket of oil.

Her hands subconsciously clenched the bed sheets. Although she couldn't exert much strength, the hatred made her knuckles turn white from the force. Her lips trembled slightly and she tried to say something else but could only make heavy **gasps**.

one

Kenneth didn't realize that Elaine was on the verge of a breakdown and kept chattering. "Willow has grown up with you since childhood. You have been spoiled since childhood. Willow is the only willing to be your friend. I don't want you to lose her, your only friend. Besides, I believe Willow. She definitely didn't do it on purpose. She must be very regretful. Let's not pursue it any further, okay? You two are good friends. Don't you know how pure, and kind Willow is?"

Every word that Kenneth uttered was like a blunt **knife**, cutting back and forth in Elaine's heart. Elaine's eyes were full of disbelief. She stared at Kenneth as if she was looking at a stranger.

She screamed in her heart, what best friend? That woman turned me into a vegetable and sent Lauren to prison. How can such a person *be* called a *friend*? Willow is simple and kind? Hahaha. This was *the* funniest joke *I* had ever heard. If I hadn't accidentally overheard their conversation at the stairs that *day*, I would *probably* have always thought that Willow was kind. It was precisely because I heard the secret of *that* scumbag father and daughter that I *suffered* this cruel attack. What's funny is that these two idiots *Alice* and *Elliot*, have been hurting their own daughter and sister in order to protect Willow. Sooner or later, *Alice* and *Elliot* will regret the stupid things they have done for the rest of *their* lives. Karma. It's all karma.

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The Heless Revived from the Ashes

Chapter 125 A Life Unraveled

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Looking at Kenneth, **who** seemed to have been drugged and could not tell right from wrong. Elaine's breathing became more and more rapid. **She** felt as if invisible hand was strangling her neck and she was about to suffocate.

Double vision began to appear in front of her eyes, and she felt dizzy. She couldn't breathe, her **head** tilted, and she passed out from Kenneth's anger.

Her body fell limply on the bed, and her eyes, which were originally filled with anger, slowly closed.

Kenneth shouted in panic, "Elaine! Elaine! What's wrong with you? Someone, doctor!"

Elaine would never have thought of it. Because of the coma, when she opened her eyes again, she was already abroad.

Kenneth also specially hired three nurses to take care of her in three shifts, and twenty bodyguards to protect her safety.

She thought she would be able to return home after she recovered, but until then, she realized that she couldn't even leave the **manor**.

The caregivers and bodyguards became the ones who monitored her.

The Brooker's Villa.

Since Lauren came to this family, she had been very happy every day.

She **was** lacking in love, but was filled with the love from Kate, Anna and Marilyn.

The happiest thing for Kate every day was shopping.

Of course, *I* didn't *buy* it for *myself*, but *for* Lauren, with the determination to dress Lauren up beautifully.

"My granddaughter-in-law is so young and beautiful, it would be a pity if she didn't dress up."

Even though Lauren never left the house, the old lady still enjoyed buying things for her.

Clothes, shoes, jewelry, bags, everything is available.

Anna and Marilyn prepared delicious food for Lauren in various ways.

In just a few days, Lauren's pale face regained color. Even though she was **still** very thin, she looked less gloomy than before because she was very happy every day.

However, except for meal times, she stayed in her room almost the entire day.

Seeing this, Kate became very worried about her mental health and wanted to enter her room and pull her out several times.

Felix said, "Grandma, your birthday **is** in a month. Ms. Bennett is making a birthday gift for you personally. Please don't disturb her."

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Fri, Mar 28

Chapter 125 A Life Unraveled

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When Kate heard this, her eyes lit up and she was deeply moved. She stopped bothering Lauren.

That morning, while Felix was having breakfast, his phone rang. It was Josh calling.

Felix picked up the phone and walked to the floor-to-ceiling window.

"Hello. Felix answered.

Josh's voice rang out from the other end of the line, "Ms. Brooker, Lucas's legs have been broken by the people I arranged, and he is currently in a coma in the hospital. What arrangements do you have for us

next?"

Felix's expression changed when he thought that Lucas, **as** a lawyer, sent an innocent person like Lauren to prison.

"If lawyers can't do it well, then don't do it." Felix murmured.

Josh knew that Felix would never let Lucas go easily.

Josh thought to himself, Lucas as a lawyer, sent an innocent person, Lauren, to prison against his conscience. Moreover, the reason why Lucas was *able* to successfully graduate from college and become a lawyer was that Lauren worked very hard during the busiest times in high school, participated in competitions and won prizes, and used *the* money she earned to support him. Not only was he ungrateful, but he also sent his benefactor to prison where he suffered five years of torture. The fact that he can work safely as a lawyer is mostly due to Lauren. Lauren's life was so miserable, how could he still live so **high and** mighty? *If* you offend Madam Kate or someone the Mr. Brooker likes, just prepare for severe revenge.

Josh mourned for Lucas in his heart, as he received the order. Josh quickly began to arrange the relevant

matters.

He contacted familiar industry insiders, collected evidence of Lucas's violations of laws and regulations, and submitted the **evidence** to the Bar Association and other relevant organizations through various channels. With the careful operation of Josh, Lucas's lawyer qualification was successfully revoked not long after.

After the effect of the anesthetic wore off, the severe pain from **his** broken leg woke Lucas up from **his** coma. He was groaning in pain on the hospital bed, and he wanted to bang his head against the **wall** because of the pain.

But this is far from enough.

When Lucas learned that his lawyer's license **was** revoked and he was fined millions for illegal and irregular operations, he felt a black **screen** before his eyes.

Although he had only been a lawyer for five years, he was able to buy a house and a car in a prosperous first-tier city like Hovendale thanks to his fame.

However, after buying the garage, there was not much savings left. It is simply not enough to pay this huge

fine.

Unable to pay the fine, the house and car were confiscated, and after paying for surgery **and** hospitalization, there was little money left in the bank card.

When he was discharged from the hospital, there was only 1300 dollars left on the card.

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Chapter 126 The Completed Queen of Blooms.

In today's world, that little amount of money was nothing more than a drop in the ocean.

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Lucas tried to find a new job, but with a broken leg and his lawyer's license revoked, every door he knocked on remained firmly shut. The same colleagues who once greeted him with warm smiles now avoided him like the p

lague. He called friends for help **only** to be met with cold indifference and outright rejection.

At night, Lucas sat alone in his dimly lit rental apartment, the air **thick** with dampness and the scent of mold. He stared at the empty room around him, his heart sinking into despair and regret.

While Lucas struggled in his misery, both the Bennett Corporation and Gray Corporation were also facing **severe** setbacks. Business partners were terminating contracts one after another.

David and Kenneth worked tirelessly, their days consumed by endless crises, yet they were powerless to stop the plummeting of their companies' shares.

Meanwhile, in the Brooker's **villa**, Lauren was focused on preparing a birthday gift for Madam Kate.

Sitting at her desk, she was bathed in the golden glow of sunlight streaming through the window. The light kissed her silhouette, outlining her in a halo of warmth. Before her, a nearly completed Swish embroidery piece lay on the table. A stunning peony design was slowly coming to life under her nimble fingers.

Her hands moved like a graceful butterfly, weaving the needle through the fabric with precision. Her eyes remained locked onto the embroidery, unwavering in concentration. Each stitch was meticulous, every thread seamlessly blending into the silk.

Her technique shifted fluidly. Sometimes alternating long and short stitches to shape the delicate petals, adding depth and dimension. Other times, she employed smooth satin stitches to fill in the vibrant hues, making each petal appear lush **and** strikingly vivid.

To capture the peony's radiant beauty, Lauren carefully selected **an** array of silk threads and deftly layered the colors, using fine rolling stitches to craft the peony's golden stamens, nestled within the folds of silk, **as** if exuding a faint floral fragrance.

Lauren was so engrossed in her work that she never noticed Felix standing behind her, watching in silent

amazement.

His eyes flickered with something unreadable. He had never expected Lauren's embroidery skills to be this extraordinary. Her technique **was** indistinguishable from the renowned Queen of Blooms embroidery style.

No one would have doubted it if he had said that she had been the one to create both the original and the replica.

A month passed in the blink of an eye. Madam Kate's birthday celebration was drawing near.

He

At the same **time**, David grew increasingly haggard, the exhaustion evident in **his** bloodshot eyes. He pored over financial reports day and night, desperately seeking a way to save his crumbling company.

The business partners who once made grand promises now responded with nothing but indifference. Every phone call was met with curt, emotionless voices delivering the same contract termination notice.

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Chapter 126 The Completed Queen of Blooms

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Over at the Gray Corporation, Kenneth made relentless efforts to mend ties, attending business events in hopes of regaining lost ground. But each time, he returned with nothing but disappointment. His once neatly styled **hair** was now disheveled, his shirt perpetually unbuttoned at the collar. The confident, ambitious man of the **past** had long since **vanished**.

Backed into a corner, the two men placed all their hopes on Madam Kate's birthday banquet. They learned **that** it was to be held at the most luxurious hotel in Haverdale. Not only would the city's elite be in attendance, but even powerful families from Balewood with generations of prestige would be present as well.

This **was their** only chance.

At the Brooker's Villa, Lauren finally set down her embroidery needle and exhaled deeply.

The masterpiece, Queen of Blooms, was now complete

She rubbed her sore eyes, gazing at **the** intricate, lifelike peonies blooming on the silk. A deep sense of accomplishment filled her chest. She had poured her heart into this work, and she was certain that Madam Kate would love it.

Rising slowly to her feet, Lauren staggered slightly **as** her legs, numb from hours of sitting, nearly gave way beneath her. She barely managed to steady herself against the desk.

Only then did she realize she **had** worked through the night without rest. Her body was utterly drained.

The morning sun filtered through the half-drawn curtains, casting **a** gentle radiance over her pale face. The golden light softened her features, washing away some of the fatigue that weighed on her.

Lauren closed her eyes briefly, letting the warmth seep into her skin. The exhaustion gripping her body. seemed to ease, if only slightly

Stretching lazily, she felt her joints crack in protest of the sleepless night.

Carefully, she rolled up the embroidered silk and placed it inside a specially prepared gift box. The box itself had been chosen by Felix. It was adorned with exquisite carvings that perfectly complemented Queen of Blooms.

Holding the gift box in her arms, she stepped outside and met with the sight of a tall man in a black suit.

For a brief moment, she assumed it was Felix. But when the man turned around, she realized it was Josh.

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Chapter 127 Dressed to Dazzle

Josh's face lit up with a smile when he saw Lauren. "Ms Bennett, you must be exhausted."

Lauren was surprised. "Josh? What brings you here?"

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Josh stepped forward, gently taking the gift box from her hands and placing it carefully on the nearby table. "Mr. **Brooker** wasn't sure when you'd finish, so he already taken Madam Kate to the banquet hall."

Lauren nodded slightly. It was only right that the host of the event arrived early.

Glancing at the clock on the living room wall, she noticed that the hands had already reached ten.

Feeling a bit self-conscious, she said, “Josh, please wait a moment. I’d like to freshen up first.”

She must look utterly drained after an all-nighter. Showing up to Madam Kate’s birthday banquet like this would be completely inappropriate.

Before she could do anything. Josh snapped his fingers. A team of people walked in from outside, carrying makeup kits and styling tools.

“Ms. Bennett, Mr. Brooker has already arranged for a stylist. It’ll take no more than thirty minutes. You’ll definitely make it to the banquet hall before the event starts at eleven.

Then, he turned to the lead stylist. “Andy, I’ll leave Ms. Bennett to you.”

The man named Andy was dressed flamboyantly, exuding an air of theatrical elegance. He crossed his arms, twirled his fingers, and gave Lauren a once-over, his face twisted in disdain. “I honestly don’t know what an alpha like Mr. Brooker sees in a little bean sprout like you.”

Lauren was speechless.

Clicking his tongue, Andy continued his ruthless critique. “Your skin is **dull**; your complexion is lifeless. My goodness! Look at your lips, all chapped and dry. **Are** you even a woman? You don’t even have as much feminine charm as I do!”

Again, Lauren had no words.

Josh’s eyelid twitched, his voice turning icy. “Andy, if you don’t want this job, just say so.”

“Fine, fine! I won’t say another word, alright?” Andy huffed, rolling his eyes dramatically as if Lauren were

his arch-nemesis.

Lauren shot Josh a questioning look. He returned a reassuring **glance**, mouthing silently, “Don’t worry! He’s like this with every woman who gets close to Mr. Brooker, not just you.”

Lauren instantly understood. She beamed at Andy. “Then I’ll be in your capable hands, Andy.”

Andy took command, directing the makeup artists to work their magic.

A soft cotton pad gently brushed against Lauren's face, evening out her fatigued complexion. A light layer of foundation followed, expertly applied with a sponge seamlessly covering her dark circles and exhaustion, leaving her skin smooth and radiant.

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Chapter 127 Dressed to Dazzle

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touch of refinement. A **delicate** sweep of soft pink eyeshadow adorned her eyelids, deepened at the outer corners with a **subtle** shade of brown to create a mesmerizing depth in her gaze. A fine stroke of eyeliner, a **coat** of mascara, **and** suddenly, her eyes sparkled with an irresistible charm.

As for the blush, Andy chose a delicate peach—pink, dusting it lightly over her cheekbones, adding a youthful, rosy glow.

Finally, a layer of **hydrating** rose—colored lipstick coated her lips, making them appear **luscious** and dewy. As if a single touch would release a drop of nectar.

Andy took a step back, tilting his head in satisfaction.

Sauntering over to a rack of exquisite gowns, he let his fingers glide over the fabric before settling on a delicate pale pink dress. Made of flowing chiffon with subtly trailing hem, it exuded an air of ethereal grace. "A young lady should always look fresh and vibrant, Andy declared.

When Lauren slipped into the dress, the transformation was breathtaking. The soft elegance of the gown washed away the lingering shadows of her **past** hardships, revealing a version of herself she had almost forgotten. She was **now** a radiant, spirited young woman full of life.

Andy then styled her hair into a low, elegant bun, allowing a few soft strands to frame her face. A delicate pearl necklace completed the ensemble, enhancing the gentle, fairy-like aura surrounding her.

When Lauren looked at herself in the mirror, she almost did not recognize her own reflection. She had nearly forgotten she used to be bright, cheerful, and full of vitality before returning to the Bennett family,

So, this is what she looked like when she was not weighed down by endless struggles.

Andy stepped back with a flourish, admiring his handiwork. "No doubt about it. I can turn even the most ordinary into something divine!"

Lauren was speechless again. Alright, she was getting used to his sharp tongue by now ..

Even Josh could not help but praise, "Ms. Bennett, you look absolutely stunning today.

He was already looking forward to seeing Mr. Brooker's reaction when he laid eyes on Lauren's breathtaking transformation.

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Chapter 128 The Pink Wonderland

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Honestly, Josh **thought** Lauren was breathtakingly beautiful. But years of hardship had worn her down, leaving behind an ingrained sense of self-doubt that she could not shake.

There were times when **Madam Kate** showed her kindness, and Lauren's expression would unconsciously **reveal** a look of unworthiness. Such timidity might have been frustrating on anyone else, but knowing **what** Lauren **had** endured, Josh could only feel heartache for her.

Lauren was so good and kind, yet life had never given her anything in return.

Thankfully, she had met Madam Kate and Mr. Brooker. Josh believed that from now on, Lauren's life would only get better.

With a sincere smile, Josh gestured politely for Lauren to proceed. His respectful demeanor, as if serving her was an honor, filled Lauren's heart with warmth. Warmth so overwhelming **that** her eyes shimmered with moisture.

It felt good. Good people were always surrounded by good people. Unlike the Bennett family.

Lauren's father, mother, and Elliot all despised her. The servants followed suit, looking at her with nothing but disdain. Even Willow's driver had mocked her openly, as if to say that Willow was the clouds in the sky, while Lauren was just the mud on the ground.

Lauren took a deep **breath**, straightened her back, and walked gracefully toward the luxury car waiting

outside.

Josh immediately stepped forward, carefully lifting the train of her **gown**.

The driver, who had been waiting by the car, opened the door as soon as she arrived, extending a gloved hand to assist her. With his other hand, he thoughtfully shielded her head from the doorframe.

From the entrance of the **villa**, **Andy** stood watching, arms crossed, eyes full of envy as he muttered. "Lucky little girl."

Lauren stepped into the car and settled into the back seat. When she looked around, she was stunned.

Everywhere she turned, she was surrounded by soft pink plush. The most eye-catching detail was the front passenger seat, covered in a fuzzy pink cushion, embroidered with the bold words "Laurie's seat."

Hanging from the rearview mirror **was** a small photo of her, taken while she was sitting on the Brooker's villa sofa, basking in the sunlight.

Her expression in the picture **was** peaceful. Even though she was not smiling, she radiated quiet contentment, **as** if her life had finally found a sense of ease.

Lauren's fingers trembled as they brushed against the soft fabric of the seat. Her eyes emotion. She could feel the care and thoughtfulness behind every little detail

burned with

She remembered the first time she had ridden in Ellison's car after leaving prison. His car had been filled with traces of Willow. And there she had been, dressed in a cheap T-shirt and jeans, her entire outfit worth less than the price of one of Willow's garments.

Back then, she had felt so insignificant. So unworthy. She had never even dared to imagine that one day.

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Chapter 128 The Pink Wonderland

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Sensing her emotions, Josh smiled warmly. “Madam Kige arranged all this herself. Do you like it, Ms.

Bennett?”

Lauren blinked in surprise, but soon, it all made sense)

Felix might treat her well, but he would never turn his our into a pink wonderland. However, the fact that he had allowed his grandmother to do so, even giving his front passenger seat for her, was just as unbelievable.

“I love it,” she murmured, her hands instinctively smoothing down her gown.

This was the first time in her life she had worn something so elegant and the first time she had worn something so expensive.

No longer did she have to sit in a luxury car feeling like an imposter in cheap clothes.

The contrast between the Brooker family’s care and the Bennett family’s indifference was **stark**.

But it no longer mattered. She **had** left the Bennett family behind. Whatever they thought of her was irrelevant now.

Josh glanced at Andy, who was still standing motionless at the villa entrance. “Andy, hurry up and get in

the car.

Andy pouted, looking utterly unwilling. “I refuse to sit there and watch my dear Felix being all lovey–dovey with another woman.”

Josh rolled his eyes but still comforted him patiently. You’re Ms. Bennett’s personal stylist today. What if her makeup smudges? Mr. Brooker had you flown in from Balewood because he trusts only you.”

Hearing the words that Felix trusted only him. Andy’s mood instantly brightened.

He tossed his head haughtily. “Well, since it’s Felix’s request, I suppose I can make an exception.”

Then, he sashayed over to the car, his long legs moving gracefully as he reached for the front passenger door. But just as he was about to get in, the driver's voice stopped him.

"Apologies, but this seat belongs to Ms. Bennett. Please take a seat in the back."

Had it not been for Lauren's gown and her delicate makeup, the driver would have insisted she sit in the front seat.

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The Heiress Revived from the Ashes

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Chapter 129 Stepping Into the Light

Andy froze for a moment, then shot the driver a fierce glare before huffing in frustration and slamming the car door shut. With an exaggerated sigh, he flounced into the back seat.

The car glided smoothly onto the road, but the atmosphere inside remained a little tense.

Andy sat with his arms crossed, still sulking, sneaking occasional glances at Lauren from the corner of his

eye.

Lauren forced a small smile as she felt slightly awkward under his scrutiny.

Josh could not help but interject, "Andy, stop pouting and focus on your job. Keeping Ms. Bennett's makeup flawless is your top priority tonight."

Andy lifted his chin arrogantly. "Of course. When I do makeup, it's guaranteed to last through the entire event!"

Lauren could not help but chuckle at his antics. The tension in her heart **eased**. She said softly, "Andy, I really appreciate all your help today. I wouldn't know what to do without you."

Hearing this, Andy's stiff expression softened a little, the corners of his lips twitching upwards. Still, he - maintained his air of superiority. "At least you have good taste and recognize my skills. Just do as I say, and

I guarantee you'll be the most dazzling one at the banquet."

The car cruised along the highway as Lauren gazed out at the fleeting scenery, anticipation bubbling

inside her.

The sleek black Phantom glided smoothly through the city streets, approaching the grand hotel before coming to a graceful stop at the entrance. Its polished body reflected the shimmering lights around it, exuding understated luxury.

Curious eyes

had already gathered even before the door opened.

The driver was the first to step out, walking with steady confidence as he made his way to the rear of the vehicle. In one swift, practiced motion, he opened the door.

The first to emerge was Andy. He swayed his slender waist as he stepped out with dramatic elegance, his every movement brimming with flair. Though he wore an air of practiced indifference, his sparkling eyes betrayed his excitement. His entrance alone had already drawn the attention of onlookers, but it was only a prelude.

Moments later, Josh rounded the car and extended his arm gracefully. A delicate, slender hand, so fair and flawless that it looked almost ethereal, reached out and lightly rested on his arm.

The sight of such an exquisite hand caused the crowd to collectively hold their breath.

*Who was the owner of this **beautiful** hand?*

With all eyes locked in eager anticipation, Lauren stepped out of the car.

The golden sunlight poured down upon her, outlining her figure with a soft, dreamlike glow. Her hair, styled in an elegant updo, had a few loose strands that danced gently against her fair neck in the breeze, adding a touch of playful charm.

Chapter 129 Stepping into the Light

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Her blush—pink **gown** hugged her figure perfectly, the sheer layers of fabric subtly revealing her graceful silhouette. The skirt cascaded down to the ground, rippling with her every step like flowing clouds at dusk.

Her brows **were** as delicate as distant mountains, her eyes clear and bright. Beneath her refined nose, her lips, soft as rose petals, carried an almost ethereal beauty. Her features were so exquisitely sculpted that she looked like a masterpiece. Like an artwork brought to life.

The crowd was mesmerized. Eyes widened. Mouths slightly agape. Expressions frozen in a mixture of **awe** and disbelief.

The once—bustling hotel entrance fell into a stunned silence. Not a single gaze could look away from Lauren.

As if time itself had stopped in that moment.

The driver, ever so careful, lifted the train of her gown to ensure not a single wrinkle disrupted its perfection.

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With a sense of reverence, the group made their way toward the hotel entrance.

And the eyes of everyone followed them, step by step.

Among the crowd, Lauren's parents stood stiffly, their expressions shifting between shock and disbelief.

Lauren's father glared at her, his face dark with barely concealed rage.

*That wretched girl. Of all times, of all places. She **just had** to show up at Madam Kate's grand **banquet**.*

He had always known she was not as obedient as she pretended to be.

Back when he forced her to marry into the Brooker family, she had agreed in words, but her face had screamed reluctance, as if she were some virtuous martyr.

And now? Now, she waltzed in dressed like a temptress, clearly desperate to climb her way up.

*Was she trying to seduce the bossman of the Brooker family? No. Perhaps her ambitions stretched even further. Perhaps she wanted to capture the attention of every elite bachelor at this **banquet**. The audacity of this woman.*

Meanwhile, Lauren's mother had different thoughts. She did not share her husband's burning anger, but she certainly was not pleased.

Her brows furrowed tightly as she stared at her daughter.

Ever since Lauren had left, Elliot had drowned himself in alcohol, drinking to the point of stomach ulcers.

And she, as his mother, had spent sleepless nights worrying and fearing that Lauren was struggling, suffering in the outside world.

But what now? Not only was Lauren perfectly fine, but she had the gall to show up at the Brooker's family event looking radiant and carefree.

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The Heiress Revived from the Ashes

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Chapter 130 Slanders

Alice, seething with rage, stormed forward and raised her hand to deliver a fierce slap.

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"You unfilial daughter!" she shrieked. "You're out here living a carefree life, while we worried ourselves sick over you!"

The force behind her slap carried a gust of wind, showing no intention of holding back, even in front of such a distinguished audience.

The moment became electrified with tension. The onlookers collectively held their breath, eyes locked onto Lauren, waiting for the inevitable impact.

But just as Alice's palm was about to land on Lauren's cheek, Josh's hand shot out, gripping her wrist in a vice-like hold. With a sharp flick, he forcefully shoved Her hand away.

Alice staggered back several steps, nearly losing her balance. A chorus of shocked gasps erupted from the crowd. Her face burned red—hot as she was embarrassed and humiliated in front of so many people. She stared at Lauren in disbelief, as if the daughter she had always taken for granted had suddenly turned into

a stranger.

That gaze was filled with shock, betrayal, and anger, as if she was betrayed by the people she trusted the most. Lauren's eyes were cold, indifferent, and utterly detached. She looked at Alice as if she were nothing more than a passing stranger, someone entirely irrelevant.

That cold disregard cut deeper than any harsh words ever could.

Alice had expected Lauren to feel guilty. To tremble with fear. To break down in tears and throw herself into her arms, admitting her wrongdoing. But instead, Lauren was calm.

Alice stood frozen, unable to comprehend this new reality. She may not love Lauren, but she could not accept Lauren not loving her. Not when Lauren had once been so desperate for her attention, once humbled herself just to earn the slightest bit of affection.

Alice's hand trembled as she pointed at Lauren, her voice choked with emotion. "Laurie, how could you just stand there and let him lay hands on me? I'm your mother!"

A mocking smile curled on Lauren's lips, devoid of warmth. "So, Madam Alice does remember that you're my mother. But tell me, what kind of mother greets her daughter with a slap? What is it? **Is** slapping me supposed to be a reward? If so, let me be very clear. I don't need this reward. If you insist on using it, I suggest you bestow it generously upon Willow instead."

Her tone was gentle, but each word carried a sharp edge, mercilessly stripping away Alice's dignity.

The murmurs among the guests grew louder.

Alice, as a prestigious society lady, valued her reputation above all else. Yet here was Lauren, giving her no room to save face, utterly humiliating her in front of everyone. Her face turned from red to white, her fury barely contained.

"I only wanted to discipline you out of concern!" she sputtered. "A young girl like you, running away from home with no money. How exactly have you been surviving this past month? This gown you're wearing is worth about 14,000 dollars. Where did you get it?"

"Inlace" Alice's voice darkened "You did something disgraceful to any it Ac your mother it is mu durex

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Chapter 130 Slanders

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The insinuation was **clear**. Even if she had not spelled it out explicitly, everyone in the room understood the accusation.

A cold, piercing light flashed in Lauren's eyes.

A mother slandering her own daughter. Utterly disgusting.

"Concern?" Lauren scoffed. "Madam Alice, spare me the hypocrisy. When I was in the Bennett family, I was beaten and scolded at every turn. When I was imprisoned, you couldn't wait to cut all ties with me. And now, you dare to stand here and say you were worried and concerned?"

She sneered, standing tall in her elegant gown, looking every bit like an untouchable princess. It was a stark contrast to the fragile, bullied girl she once was.

Alice was left speechless. She was unable to refute Lauren's words.

Seeing his wife at a loss, David's anger ignited. His voice rose in a sharp, venomous hiss. "If I had known you'd turn out this ungrateful, I never would have taken you from that orphanage! I should have let you rot there! You ran away for a month! Do you really expect us to believe you earned that dress through honest means? Clearly, you sold yourself for it! And now, you're here at the Brooker family banquet shamelessly trying to seduce men?! Dream on!"

His voice dripped with disgust. "As your father, it is my duty to teach you a lesson, you filthy, disgraceful wretch!"

The moment David's words landed, the entire banquet hall erupted into chaos.

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The Heiress—Revived from the Ashes

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